

Safety Labeling on Eggs Takes Effect September 4

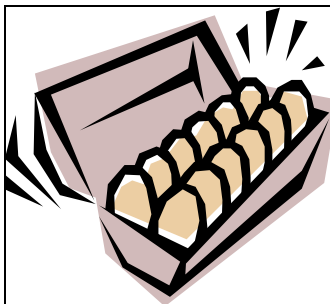
In an effort to further reduce the spread of Salmonella Enteritidis (SE), the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are requiring new labeling on shell egg containers. The regulations take effect September 4, 2001, and mean that egg cartons, like those sold in grocery stores and elsewhere, must carry the following label:

SAFE HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS: To prevent illness from bacteria: keep eggs refrigerated, cook eggs until yolks are firm, and cook foods containing eggs thoroughly."

The safe handling statement must appear on egg cartons by September 4, 2001, however FDA will allow manufacturers to exhaust existing inventory of eggs cartons so long as they bear a safe handling statement that includes a refrigeration instruction and cooking instruction. Once the cartons are used up, firms must comply with FDA's required statement.

The regulations also require shell eggs that have not been treated to destroy Salmonella must be stored and displayed under refrigeration at 45 degrees F or lower while held for retail sale. This refrigeration requirement has been in effect since June 4, 2001.

"This is a welcomed addition to our safe food handling regulations in Utah," said Doug Pearson, Supervisor of the UDAF's Egg, Poultry and Meat Compliance Programs. "Our goal is to eliminate egg-related SE illness by 2010, with an interim goal of a 50 percent drop



Egg cartons now carry food safety instructions to help cut Salmonella Enteritidis illnesses.

UDAF Brand Inspectors Halt Cattle Rustling Ring

Animal Industry Division brand inspectors helped bring felony livestock theft charges against six individuals in the past eight months, ending one of the state's more active cattle rustling sprees in several years.

Since January, the Division has recovered 85 head of cows, calves and horses as well as more than \$30,000 worth of stolen property. The value of the recovered livestock alone is put at more than \$40,000.

In one case, three suspects in the Green River area told brand inspectors they considered themselves to be "outlaws" not thieves, and fashioned themselves as modern day Jesse and Frank James. Brand Bureau Chief, Terry Menlove says the men dressed in black clothing, rode black horses and operated at night. The three were caught after UDAF District Supervisor, Shyrel Baker discovered the branded and tagged livestock in Tuscher Canyon Northeast of Green River.

DNA Helps Make The Case

In Beaver County, DNA evidence and the work of Brand Inspector Thane Marshall, helped sheriff deputies charge a rancher with receiving stolen property. Marshall identified the calves, and had their DNA compared with animals that were believed to be their mothers. The DNA matched, and the suspect was charged.

The latest case was fairly simple, said Bureau Chief Menlove, "Two brothers in Layton tried to sell four cows at the Smithfield Auction. When inspectors Erin Clelland and Scott Esplin asked for ownership documentation, the suspects couldn't produce it." Further questioning revealed the livestock was stolen from ranches in Davis County. The suspects pleaded no contest to theft charges.



Three of 85 stolen head of livestock returned to owners by UDAF brand inspectors this year.

UTAH AG NEWS

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Energy Saving Tips

Governor Leavitt has issued an executive order instructing all state employees to conserve energy in the workplace. The Office of Energy is distributing information on how to accomplish this. Please implement into your lifestyle the practices outlined below.

The Office of Energy welcomes any recommendations and comments. Contact them at www.powerforward.utah.gov/

Equipment

- Ψ Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use for an hour or more.
- Ψ Enabling your monitor to enter sleep mode between usage intervals, (5 minutes is recommended).
- Ψ Eliminate unnecessary hot plates, coffee pots, and other small appliances in your area and turn off all tools, office machines, and portable appliances when not in use.
- Ψ If you're the last one leaving at the end of the day, turn off photocopiers and other equipment.

Less frequently used equipment with remote controls such as televisions and VCRs should be unplugged when not in use, because they still use power when not in use. The longevity of a computer is affected more by the heat it generates than by occasionally shutting it off or on.

Lighting

- Ψ Avoid using incandescent task lights. Replace halogen floor lamps with compact fluorescent models.
- Ψ Turn off lights when out of your office or cubicle. Also turn off lights in unused common areas such as copy rooms, break rooms, conference rooms, and restrooms.
- Ψ Turn off lights near windows when daylighting is adequate.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

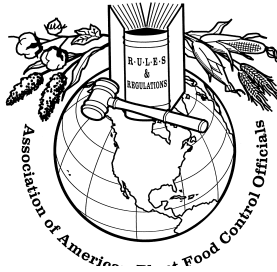
REMINDER! It is important for employees to periodically check who their current beneficiaries are on life insurance, retirement and 401(k) accounts, especially if you have divorced, remarried, or had a loss of a spouse or family member.

Contact the Utah Retirement System, Services at (801) 355-7735 and PEHP Term Life Insurance at (801) 366-7495.



Account Group

The Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) recently selected UDAF Plant Industry Program Manager, **Clair A. Allen** as a member of the Board of Directors representing the Western states. He will eventually become president of the association in the year 2005. The association nominated Allen for the position in recognition of this leadership and involvement in plant and fertilizer-related issues during his nine-year employment with the Department. The association works to keep feed and fertilizer regulations



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Plant Division employees recently honored Liza Layne on becoming a U.S. citizen. (below) Division director, Dick Wilson congratulates Liza on becoming a citizens and learning about the country. Liza moved to Utah five years ago from The Philippines after meeting and marrying Don Layne of Idaho. Liza has been a division seed analyst since November of 1999.



SECURITY TIPS

By Jeff Rose

Always remember your personal safety. A stance that keeps your legs about shoulder width and balanced is the best. You should be angled to be less of a target and protect your vital organs.

So what do you do when talking to someone or approaching them to ask if they need help? Some key steps are listed below;

Have some empathy or to how the person you are be feeling. In reality they understand as approaching might be as scared as you are.

A crisis situation can develop because of our feelings. We might be angry, or upset and it can translate through our non-verbal skills to the person we are talking to.



- * We have the power to either escalate or deescalate any given situation.
- * Always remain calm even if being verbally assaulted.
- * Avoid power struggles with people.
- * Remain the professional at all times.
- * Let them vent and get some of their tension out of their systems. Always think safety.

Communication is a big process controlled by verbal (words), non-verbal (how we act), and Para-verbal. (Para verbal are they way we say things with volume, speed and tone)

Imagine the many ways you can say the same words but mean different meanings by changing the Para-verbals.

Always remember these three things below, and be safe, be smart, be secure.

- * Nobody can protect you unless you want to be protected.
- * Our approach to someone has a lot to do with our answer we receive back.
- * Safety and security is needed at work or at home, and cannot be forgotten.